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AFGHANISTAN

RULE OF LAW STABILIZATION – FORMAL COMPONENT MONTHLY REPORT

OCTOBER 1 – OCTOBER 31, 2013

October 2013

This publication was produced for review by the United States Agency for International Development. It was prepared by Tetra Tech DPK.

Contract: AID-306-C-12-00014



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Implemented by:
Tetra Tech DPK
605 Market Street, Suite 800
San Francisco, CA 94105

Project Address:
Main Street, House #18
Shash Darak
Kabul, Afghanistan

DISCLAIMER

The author's views in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Agency for International Development or the United States Government.

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ABBREVIATIONS & ACRONYMS

ACAS	Afghanistan Court Administration System
ACT	Anti-Corruption Tribunal
AGO	Attorney General's Office
AWJA	Afghan Women Judges Association
CLE	Continuing Legal Education
CMS	Case Management System
COR	Contracting Officer's Representative
GIRoA	Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
HR	Human Resources
IT	Information Technology
INL	Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs
ISAF	International Security Assistance Force
JSSP	Justice Sector Support Program
MOHE	Ministry of Higher Education
MOJ	Ministry of Justice
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
PRT	Provincial Reconstruction Team
PMP	Performance Management Plan
RLS-Formal	Afghanistan Rule of Law Stabilization Project - Formal Component
SC	Supreme Court
TOT	Training-of-Trainers
USG	United States Government
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Afghanistan Rule of Law Stabilization – Formal Component (RLS-Formal) is a United States Agency for International Development (USAID) funded program designed to increase public confidence in the rule of law system and support the improved performance and accountability of governance in Afghanistan.

The project accomplished the following results and activities in October:

Judicial Education In October, the Supreme Court graduated sitting judges from southern and eastern provinces from a continuing legal education program in Kabul. RLS-Formal completed a survey of judges from Anti-Corruption Tribunals which the project will use to prepare a report on the functioning of corruption courts. RLS-Formal also conducted a training-of-trainers session for instructors at the Judicial Stage.

Court Management RLS-Formal continued its support to the Administrative Stage, delivering trainings on case management, court performance standards, and conducting court user surveys. The classes ended in late October and the Supreme Court will then graduate the court clerks after final examinations in early November. The project continued computer trainings for judges and court clerks at the Appellate Court in Herat and construction design software training for Supreme Court engineers.

Legal Education Kabul University held a Career Fair to introduce students to employers in justice sector organizations and NGOs. RLS-Formal also planned a study tour to India for students from Kabul and Khost universities who competed in the final round of the National Media Moot Court Competition so they can observe the regional rounds of the competition taking place in November. The project also completed a legal research and writing workshop at Kandahar and Kabul universities and a legal English training course at the Panjsher Institute of Higher Education.

Public Legal Outreach In October, RLS-Formal worked with the Ministry of Justice to broadcast a radio program on laws prohibiting violence against women and to stage mobile theater performances promoting women's and children's rights. Over 11,000 male and females attended the performances. The project also conducted outreach training for legal outreach and legal aid staff from nine northern provinces. It also developed a series of radio broadcasts to raise awareness of gender justice in coordination with the Supreme Court and Ministry of Justice.

Gender RLS-Formal held gender trainings for female students and religious leaders in Takhar province on the violence against women, women's right to own property, marriage and divorce law. Kabul's BBC bureau reported on the challenges and opportunities facing women judges in Afghanistan, raising awareness of the project's goals. RLS-Formal also sponsored a forum on a career in the judiciary for female students at Kabul and Kandahar universities.

COMPONENTS 1 & 2

FORMAL RULE OF LAW SYSTEM IMPROVED

RLS-Formal enhances the rule of law system in Afghanistan by strengthening the capacity of the judiciary and court administrators. The project organizes these activities under Component 1 and Component 2, respectively. The objective of the components is to ensure fair, accountable, and transparent dispute resolution in the formal court system and increase public confidence in the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.

COMPONENT 1: CAPACITY BUILDING OF THE JUDICIARY

TASK 1: CONTINUING SUPPORT TO THE JUDICIAL STAGE PROGRAM

- In early October, RLS-Formal conducted two Training-of-Trainers (TOT) sessions for instructors at the Judicial Stage, Afghanistan's induction training program for new judges. This training, which introduces teachers to student-centered training techniques and curriculum development, was followed up on October 5th when RLS-Formal advisors observed six instructors at the Judicial Stage to assess whether they incorporated into their classes the ToT methods such as debate, discussions, question/answer sessions, and use of PowerPoint presentations. RLS-Formal delivers training and mentoring to Stage instructors in order to ensure Afghanistan's newest judges receive a high quality legal education to prepare them to enter and excel at judicial service.



RLS-Formal advisors lead a TOT session for instructors at the Judicial Stage in October.

TASK 2: IMPROVE INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY OF STATE JUSTICE INSTITUTIONS INCLUDING ANTI-CORRUPTION COURTS

- During the week of October 12th, RLS-Formal began collecting survey questionnaires from judges in Anti-Corruption Tribunals (ACT) across Afghanistan. The questionnaires solicited information from the judges about their level of education and experience, work environment, caseload, administrative support, and case management skills. The project intends to issue a report on the status of the ACTs no later than December based on data from the survey, site visits, and trainings. RLS-Formal works to strengthen the capacity of ACTs in order to improve the fairness, transparency, and accountability of the ACTs and increase public confidence in the Supreme Court's commitment to combat corruption.

TASK 3: CONTINUE PRACTICAL SKILLS TRAINING & CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION FOR SITTING JUDGES

- On October 2nd, the Supreme Court (SC) graduated 30 sitting judges from a 9-day continuing legal education (CLE) program in Kabul through the support of RLS-Formal. The 20 male and 10 female judges from 12 southern and eastern provinces received training on criminal law, criminal procedure, inheritance rights, judicial ethics, gender justice awareness, and use of the Afghanistan Court Administration System (ACAS), the country's paper-based case management system. RLS-Formal provides continuing legal education for sitting judges in order to build their practical skills and knowledge of legal topics and strengthen the rule of law in Afghanistan.



Female judges receive continuing legal education at a RLS-Formal training in October.

- On October 12th, RLS-Formal advisors met with members of the Supreme Court's (SC) Judicial Education Department (JED) and officials from the Attorney General's Office (AGO) to discuss standardized course material for continuing legal education programs on criminal procedure and counter narcotics. Prosecutors and prominent judges from the Counter Narcotics and Internal and External Security courts agreed to serve as editors of the course material on narcotics and criminal law. RLS-Formal provides support to the JED to develop standardized training materials in emerging legal areas in order to ensure a uniform and sustainable judicial education program which improves Afghan judges' knowledge of substantive and procedural laws.

- In October, RLS-Formal advisers continued to coordinate with the SC on an upcoming study tour for decision-makers overseeing judicial education, including members of the Judicial Education Committee (JEC). The SC and the project intend to conduct a ten-day study tour to observe the judicial education system in France, which serves as a model for Afghanistan's Judicial Stage. The study tour to the French Judicial Institute will help the participants gain insight to improve the function of their own judicial education institution. RLS-Formal collaborated with the French Embassy who has agreed to provide a French magistrate and two translators to accompany the Afghan delegation. The study tour will take place from November 19th-28th.
- Despite the SC's appreciation of RLS-Formal's ongoing support to the Stage and CLE programs, the program has not been able to engage the SC leadership in developing a strategic plan to ensure the sustainability and high quality of the judicial training program as donor support, particularly financial support, diminishes. In partnership with the other main Stage and CLE donors, namely Max Planck and the French Embassy, RLS-Formal has continuously followed up on its request from the fall of 2010 that the JEC meet with donors to develop a strategic plan. This effort has been to no avail. The project is hopeful that, with USAID and other donor support, the JEC will soon agree to meet with the donors to discuss beginning the strategic planning process to ensure a sustainable future for the program.

COMPONENT 2: CAPACITY BUILDING OF COURT ADMINISTRATORS

TASK 1: TRAIN COURT STAFF TO PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL COURT ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

- In October, the SC continued to deliver instruction at the Administrative Stage program, a four-month induction training program for court clerks, through the support of RLS-Formal and with the assistance of two international experts on leadership and efficient court administration. Throughout October, 28 male and two female clerks received training on the principles of court administration, the code of administrative conduct, case management, financial management, and organizational leadership. At the conclusion of classes in late October, RLS-Formal advisors distributed questionnaires to measure the impact of the Administration Stage on the skills and knowledge of the clerks. One readily apparent positive outcome of the program was the clerk's enthusiastic discussion about ways to organize and fund the country's first association of court administrators. RLS-Formal aims to professionalize court administration in coordination with the SC in order to ensure effective and efficient justice delivery for citizens utilizing Afghanistan's courts.



An RLS-Formal advisor leads a session at the Administrative Stage in October.

- In October, RLS-Formal continued to implement two computer literacy workshops for judges and court administrators at the Appellate Court in Herat. In total, 25 participants are receiving instruction on Microsoft Windows and Office through hands-on, problem-solving activities during the two month programs. The programs are scheduled to conclude in early November. RLS-Formal implements capacity building initiatives for court personnel to gain knowledge of essential computer applications to enable them to prepare case documents and maintain records and statistics contributing to professional court administrative service and justice delivery.

TASK 2: DEVELOP SUPREME COURT CAPACITY TO MANAGE BUDGET, PERSONNEL, AND INFRASTRUCTURE

- In October, RLS-Formal continued to implement a computer training program for information and communication technology staff at the SC. Six male staff members are receiving training on how to design and build technology solutions, including creating knowledge-sharing platforms and integrating multiple technology products. The training program specifically helps build the staff skills to manage the SC's statistics database, which will track crucial court data to ensure timely case flow and identify backlogs. RLS-Formal works closely with the SC to develop administrative reforms that build human and institutional capacity through enhanced statistical reporting.
- In October, RLS-Formal continued a workshop on construction design software for staff engineers from the SC. Three male engineers received training on 3D design utilizing AutoCAD which streamlines the design and documentation processes for court construction projects. RLS-Formal assists the construction department of the SC to develop and manage infrastructure projects in order to effectively increase and improve the physical presence of the formal justice system throughout each province of Afghanistan.



A staff engineer at the SC receives training on construction design software in October.

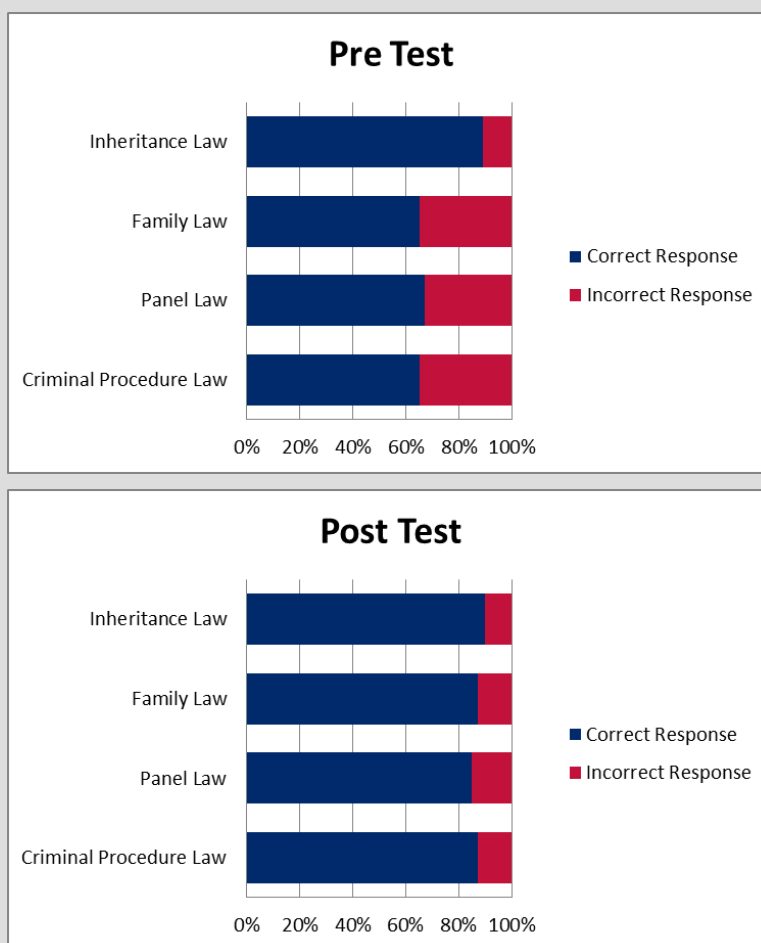
- On October, RLS-Formal advisors met with the Director of the SC Research and Studies Department to discuss the development and installation of a statistics database. The project presented the design plan for the database which will enhance and streamline case management procedures in courts across the country and improve mechanisms for tracking court statistics such as case type, party names, case status, and filing and disposition dates. These improvements will help ensure timely case flow, identify backlogs and enable the SC to allocate personnel and financial resources based on specific needs of each court. RLS-Formal works closely with the SC to design and institute administrative reforms to build human and institutional capacity through enhanced case management and statistical reporting.
- Over the course of several months, a joint committee comprised of SC advisors and RLS-Formal staff developed procedures to improve court administration through a new ACAS Procedures Manual. The Manual was submitted to the SC High Council for approval on January 5, 2013. The committee expected the High Council to quickly approve the Manual so that RLS-Formal could begin training personnel on the new policies and procedures contained in the Manual. However, during the past 10 months since the Manual was submitted for approval, the SC has not reviewed the Manual. This inaction by the SC continues despite several follow-up meetings with the Head of the SC administration and other decision-makers to urge the SC to review the Manual. With USAID consent, RLS-Formal intends to send a letter the Chief Justice in early November requesting his assistance in obtaining a decision on the Manual. Until the SC responds, RLS-Formal cannot conduct training on the expanded ACAS procedures as planned.
- Over the past several months, the SC has informed the project that it would designate a room at the SC complex for its staff to use as a computer training lab. The SC converted its former computer lab to an executive office in 2012 and has never replaced it. At the request of the SC, the project purchased computers for the new lab in order to train SC staff on essential computer programs designed to professionalize its court administrative service and operate the new statistics database. The SC recently informed the project that the computer lab will be provided in a building currently under construction at the SC complex.

Evaluating the Impact of Trainings

Sitting judges receive continuing legal education

RLS-Formal evaluates the impact of its training programs by administering pre and post-test of the knowledge of participants. Monitoring and evaluation staff conducts the evaluations and share the results with program staff in order to determine lessons learned and identify areas for improvement.

In October, RLS-Formal conducted an evaluation of **20 male and ten female judges** participating in a continuing legal education program in Kabul. Project staff measured the development of the knowledge and skills of the trainees and analyzed the results in a report to share with program and counterpart staff. The graph below represents **the growth in the knowledge of the judges.**



Sayed Zia Haq, a **judge from the District Court of Jak** in Ghazni Province, described his professional development at the training: “I learned about Article 398 of penal code. **Previously, the meaning was ambiguous** to me. This article says, ‘A person, defending his honor, who sees his spouse, or another of his close relations, in the act of committing adultery...and immediate kills or injures one or both of them shall be exempted from punishment for laceration and murder but shall be imprisoned for a period not exceeding two years.’ I know many accused of this crime are not imprisoned... But now, **the instructors made it clear** to me that it is murder and still a crime.”

COMPONENT 3

AVAILABILITY OF QUALITY LEGAL EDUCATION EXPANDED

RLS-Formal expands the availability of legal education in Afghanistan by building the capacity of Law and *Sharia* faculties across the country. The objective of Component 3 is to form a cadre of well-trained and motivated legal professionals who have received a quality legal education in order to provide meaningful access to justice to the citizens they serve.

COMPONENT 3: CAPACITY BUILDING OF THE FACULTIES OF LAW AND SHARIA

TASK 1: CONTINUE IMPLEMENTATION OF CORE CURRICULUM FOR LAW AND SHARIA FACULTIES

- In October, RLS-Formal advisors held a series of meetings with Law deans and professors from universities across Afghanistan to facilitate completion of course syllabi as part of the Law faculties' effort to finalize a standard Law curriculum. By December, the Law faculties hope to hold a final curriculum conference to approve the syllabi, just as the *Sharia* Faculties did in 2012 for the *Sharia* curriculum. Before the next academic year in spring 2014, the syllabi will be submitted to the Ministry of Higher Education for approval. RLS-Formal provides support to Law and *Sharia* faculties to implement a unified curriculum and other educational reforms in order to improve the quality of legal education in Afghanistan.

TASK 2: PROVIDE PRACTICAL TRAINING FOR LAW STUDENTS AND INSTRUCTORS

- On October 2nd in Kabul, 6 judges who teach at the Judicial Stage were trained on interactive teaching methods and how to develop learning objectives. On October 3rd, the same training was delivered in Kapisa province to 14 professors from Al Biruni University, including the Law Dean, and 7 professors from Panjsher Institute, including the Chancellor. Professor Ziayee of the Panjshir Institute described the impact of the training, saying "The biggest challenge for our school is stopping our teacher-centered way of lectures and engaging students' participation during the lectures. By attending these trainings on teaching methodologies, our professors can learn from the experience of other countries to make the classroom environment interactive and beneficial." RLS-Formal implements capacity building initiatives for legal educators in order to enhance the overall learning experience of students in all areas in the justice sector.
- On October 7th, Kabul University, with support from RLS-Formal, held a first-ever Career Fair to introduce students who will be graduating in December to potential employers in justice sector, including government and private organizations. Over 450 students from the Law and *Sharia* faculties met with representatives of 21 Afghan and international organizations, including the Attorney General's Office, various ministries, private law firms, rule of law implementing

partners, and USAID. In preparation for the students meeting the employers, RLS-Formal conducted workshops for students on resume writing, networking, and job interviews. Zarlisht Stanikzai, a fifth year student, described the benefits of the Career Fair: “Previously, I knew of jobs at a few ministries, such as the Ministry of Higher Education and Ministry of Justice, and a few donor organizations. At the Career Fair, I learned about many other organizations where I might be able to find potential employment in the future.” RLS-Formal supports such events to encourage Law and *Sharia* students to seek employment in the justice sector where their skills and knowledge can be utilized to improve the justice system in Afghanistan.



Students visit a booth of the Ministry of Women Affairs to explore employment opportunities at Kabul University's career fair.

- On October 6th and 7th, RLS-Formal conducted several rounds of legal research training for students from Kandahar University. 97 male and 3 female students from the *Sharia* Faculty received training on effective writing techniques and participated in practical exercises to strengthen their research skills. RLS-Formal supports practical training initiatives to assist students with developing their analytical and critical thinking skills in order for graduates to contribute meaningfully to the justice sector.



Students at Kandahar University attend a legal research and writing training in October.

- During the week of October 12th, RLS-Formal advisors commenced preparations for a study tour for students from Kabul and Khost universities who competed in the final round of Afghanistan's National Media Moot Court Competition. Pending USAID approval, the students and their coaches from the two teams will travel to India to observe the Regional Finals of the Media Moot Court Competition involving teams from across South Asia.
- From October 26th to 27th, RLS-Formal advisors conducted a two-day legal research and writing workshop for 30 male and 8 female students from the Law Faculty of Kabul University. The workshop covered on-line legal research, including instruction on how to access case laws and other resources from US library websites. The advisors also provided tips on writing a senior thesis which all the participants are required to complete for graduation in December. RLS-Formal provides training on legal research and writing in order to help improve the quality of legal education in Afghanistan.

TASK 3: SUPPORT HANDS-ON TRAINING FOR LAW STUDENTS

- On October 3rd, students participating in a legal clinic at Balkh University visited the Kunduz University to conduct a moot court for students with the support of RLS-Formal. 12 male students from the Law faculties held a moot court competition on a criminal case before an audience of more than 300 Law students. RLS-Formal supports moot court contests in order to develop a cadre of well-trained future judges, prosecutors and defense attorneys with the capacity to provide meaningful access to justice for all citizens of Afghanistan.



Students from Balkh University hold a moot court competition at Kunduz University as part of a legal clinic in October.

- On October 7th, 65 students completed one-month computer literacy courses at Kabul University with the support of RLS-Formal. 40 male and 25 female students from the Law and *Sharia* Faculties built their capacity to use Microsoft Windows and Office through hands-on training and problem-solving activities. RLS-Formal supports training on essential computer applications in order to help Law and *Sharia* faculty students use computers for the coursework and also in their future justice sector jobs.
- On October 30th, Kabul University Law Faculty held a joint ceremony to appreciate the Media Moot Court team which won the 2013 National Media Competition in October and to recognize the 12 male and 12 female students who recently completed a 6-month long legal clinic program covering civil and criminal law. RLS-Formal supports moot court competitions and legal clinic programs to provide practical experiences for law student to help prepare them to serve as future judges, prosecutors, and defense lawyers.

Quote from a Beneficiary of Legal Education

Ayesha Muhaqique, a fourth year student at the **Sharia Faculty of Kabul University**, described her experience in a computer literacy course: “During the time that I attended the computer course, I found it an efficient way for female students at *Sharia* Faculty to learn modern techniques to practice law. I can see improvements in my skills and those of my classmates these days. Now we can make PowerPoint presentations for our classes.”

- By mid-October, 12 Afghan universities selected their teams to compete in the 2014 Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition. This represents a record number of schools expected to compete in the national rounds to be held in Kabul in January 2014. 60 students, in teams of five, will represent Al Biruni, Balkh, Herat, Kabul, Kandahar, Khost, Kunar, Kunduz, Nangarhar, Paktia, Panjshir, and Takhar universities. A total of eight women students from three different universities will be among the competitors, another record for Jessup. RLS-Formal supports moot court contests, such as Jessup, in order to develop a cadre of well-

trained future judges, prosecutors and defense attorneys with the capacity to provide meaningful access to justice for all citizens of Afghanistan.

TASK 4: DEVELOP ADVANCED LEGAL ENGLISH TRAINING

- On October 6th, over a hundred students at the Panjsher Institute of Higher Education completed a legal English training through the support of RLS-Formal. The male students from the *Sharia* Faculty studied English grammar and learned technical terms specific to criminal law and the procedure. The course was taught in Panjshir's language lab which the project developed in May 2013. RLS-Formal supports legal English programs to help students to access English-language legal resource materials and enhance their opportunities to participate in moot court competitions, study tours and scholarships abroad, the majority of which require a high level of English proficiency.

TASK 5: MODERNIZE TEACHING METHODOLOGIES

- On October 2nd, Law and *Sharia* faculties across Afghanistan received textbooks for courses on civil procedure, criminal procedure and forensic medicine published with the support of RLS-Formal. Professors at Kabul University developed the textbooks and coursework, and the project distributed 9,140 copies to universities in 17 provinces. The SC also received 450 copies of the textbooks to distribute to judges in CLE trainings. RLS-Formal assists Law and *Sharia* faculties with developing new course content in order to improve the quality of legal education in Afghanistan.

Career Fair Opens Doors for Law and Sharia Students

Kabul University holds its first-ever Career Fair



Student Zarlasht Stanikzai learns about employment opportunities with USAID during a visit to its booth at Kabul University's Career Fair.

Developing a career is as much about who you know as what you know. However, networking can seem like an overwhelming challenge for those first entering the job market. Students at Kabul University recently received a boost in their job searches when the university held its first-ever Career Fair to introduce students expected to graduate in December from its Law and Sharia faculties to potential employers in the justice sector. Over 450 students attended the event and met with representatives of over **twenty Afghan government ministries, private law firms and international organizations, including USAID.**

RLS-Formal sponsored the Career Fair and conducted a series of workshops for students on resume writing, networking strategies and interviewing skills leading up to the event in order to help them **make the most of the opportunity.** The day began with a panel discussion from legal professionals from all walks of life including a judge, defense attorney, legal advisor, professor, prosecutor, Fulbright Scholar, legal intern, and an advisor from the Administrative Stage. The panelists discussed their career paths, offered advice on achieving a **fulfilling legal career** and answered questions from students.

Students then spent the afternoon visiting the booths of potential employers, **putting a face with their resume.** They shook hands, asked questions, received giveaways, and submitted job applications. Zarlasht Stanikzai, a fifth year Law student studying during nights, described the benefits of the Career Fair:

“Previously, I knew of jobs at a few ministries, such as the Ministry of Higher Education and Ministry of Justice, and a few donor organizations. At the fair, I learned about many other organizations where I might be able to find a potential employment in the future.”

Ahmad Shekib, another fifth year Law student, appreciated the fair as a novel approach to career development, saying “A Career Fair is a **new way of finding jobs in Afghanistan.** Such events provide good direction for students about to graduate by helping them to match their interests with available job opportunities.”

Underdogs Rise to the Top at National Media Law Competition

Students from ten universities compete in National Media Moot Court competition



The team from Khost University shows off their second place award at the 2013 Media Law Moot Court Competition held at the Appellate Court in Kabul at the end of September.

Media law is a complex legal field governing many aspects of communication, from privacy and censorship to television and the internet. Media law's complexity makes it challenging for countries with relatively new media sectors, such as Afghanistan, to adhere to international practice and standards. The 2013 Media Law Moot Court Competition, co-sponsored by RLS-Formal and Internews, provided an opportunity for university students in Afghanistan to explore the application of **media laws and regulations** within a simulate court setting.

Representing the **next generation of Afghan lawyers**, ten teams of students from Kabul, Kandahar, Takhar, Al Biruni, Balkh, Herat, Paktia, Kunduz, Panjshir and Khost universities participated in this year's competition. The students argued their cases in Pashto and Dari at the Appellate Court in Kabul which hosted the event. Kabul University, has won the

Competition in past years, and typically the Competition's Best Oralist award has gone to a male student; however, this year yielded some surprising results!

First, a female student, Hamida Bakhtyari, from Herat University, won the **Best Oralist award**. Her participation in the Competition was her first trip outside of Herat and an introduction to the outside world. Hamida praised the experience: "The medial law moot court was a **great educational event** for me and my teammates... The program allowed students from ten universities come to gather and share their knowledge and experiences. What I learned in last three months of preparing and participating in the competition, I would not have been able to learn in a classroom in a year."

Moreover, while Kabul University did win the Competition, Khost University was a very close second place winner after **participating in the Competition for the first time**. The team of five students from Khost won preliminary rounds against Herat, Kandahar and Takhar universities before losing to Kabul University, the incumbent, by only two points in the final round.

USAID will sponsor both Kabul and Khost university teams to observe the 2013 Regional Media Moot Court Competition in India in November.

The Price Media Law Moot Court Competition originated in 2008 at Oxford University in England and was expanded to include universities in South Asia beginning in 2010.

Illustrative Ongoing Practical Coursework Supported by RLS-Formal*							
Start	End Date	Type of Coursework	Topic	No. of Students		University	Faculty
				Male	Female		
September	TBD	Legal Clinic	Criminal Procedure	44	16	Balkh	Law & Sharia
April	November	Legal Clinic	Civil and Criminal Law	12	12	Kabul	Law & Sharia
September	December	Legal Clinic	Civil Law	30	0	Kabul	Sharia
August	December	Legal English	Beginner, Intermediate & Advanced	29	21	Kabul	Law & Sharia
September	October	Computer Literacy	Microsoft Office	40	50	Kabul	Law & Sharia
August	December	Legal English	Beginner, Intermediate & Advanced	20	5	Kabul	Law & Sharia
September	December	Legal Clinic	Street Law	6	10	Al Biruni	Law & Sharia
September	December	Legal Clinic	Civil & Criminal Law	12	8	Al Biruni	Law & Sharia
August	December	Legal English	Beginner, Intermediate & Advanced	299	168	Herat	Law & Sharia
September	October	Legal English	Beginner, Intermediate & Advanced	105	0	Panjshir	Sharia
May	TBD	Legal Clinic	Civil Law	10	0	Nangarhar	Law & Sharia
*As of October 31, 2013							

COMPONENT 4

CITIZEN AWARENESS OF LEGAL RIGHTS AND LEGAL PROCESSES OF JUDICIAL SYSTEM INCREASED

RLS-Formal raises citizen awareness of legal rights and court processes with public legal outreach and awareness conducted through strategic communications under Component 4. The objective of Component 4 is to transfer knowledge and skills to government counterparts to develop a core of professionals with the expertise and experience to implement public information campaigns that increase citizen awareness and develop trust in the formal justice system.

COMPONENT 4: PUBLIC LEGAL OUTREACH AND AWARENESS THROUGH STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS

TASK 1: PROVIDE EQUIPMENT AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO DEVELOP PUBLIC LEGAL OUTREACH CAPACITY

- From October 26th to 30th, RLS-Formal advisors held a workshop on the National Legal Awareness Strategy for staff members of the public legal outreach and the legal aid offices of the Ministry of Justice (MOJ). The workshop, held in Mazar, included 20 men and 1 woman from MOJ offices in nine provinces: Badakshan, Kunduz, Takhar, Balkh, Sar-e-Pul, Baghlan, Jowzjan, Samangan, and Faryab. The participants learned how to present information to the public on the legal rights of an accused person, laws preventing forced marriage, and laws regarding divorce and child custody using photos, media releases, and social networking sites such as Facebook and YouTube. RLS-Formal assists the MOJ with conducting legal awareness campaigns to inform citizens of their legal rights and to increase the public's confidence that those rights will be enforced through the formal justice system.

TASK 2: CAPACITY BUILDING OF THE SUPREME COURT AND THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE TO CONDUCT EFFECTIVE PRINT CAMPAIGNS

- As of October, the project delivered 612,000 brochures, 102,000 posters and 14,300 booklets to MOJ legal aid centers across all of Afghanistan's provinces. The publications aim to raise awareness of children's rights, inheritance rights, divorce law, and the Law on the Elimination of Violence against Women (including prohibitions against forced and underage marriage). RLS-Formal assists the MOJ's public outreach staff with the concept and development of publication materials in order to develop a core of professionals with the expertise to implement campaigns that increase citizen's knowledge of, and trust in, the formal justice system.

TASK 3: DEVELOP CAPACITY OF THE SUPREME COURT AND MINISTRY OF JUSTICE TO PRODUCE RADIO AND TELEVISION PROGRAMS

- On October 30th, the MOJ broadcast a radio program, produced jointly with the SC, and with support from RLS-Formal, educating the public about the laws prohibiting violence against

women. The program had primetime (morning) coverage in all 34 provinces. RLS-Formal supports the MOJ's legal awareness campaigns to educate citizens on their legal rights and to encourage the public to enforce those rights through the court system.

- In October, in collaboration with the MOJ, RLS-Formal conducted mobile theater performances in Kabul and Badakhshan provinces concerning women's and children's rights. In Kabul, an estimated 6,300 male and 2,200 female high school students and 600 women at the Kabul Women's Garden enjoyed the performance. In Badakhshan, over 1,000 young male students, as well as 215 men and 70 women from the community, attended performances held at a high school. The performances are an entertaining way to inform the public about the rights of Afghan citizens. These performances focused on violence against women, child labor laws, and children's right to an education. One student commented, "I really enjoyed the theater... I learned that we should study hard to contribute to society. I understand now that children have a right to education and a right to go to school. I also learned that children have a right to be respected in society." RLS-Formal assists the MOJ in legal awareness activities to inform the public of their legal rights and increase confidence in Afghanistan's formal justice system.



Children gather to watch a mobile theater performance on children's rights in Badakhshan in October.



A mobile theater performance promoting women's rights in Kabul Women's Garden



Students watching a performance on women's rights at Rabia Balkhi school in Kabul in October.

Quote from a Beneficiary of Public Legal Outreach

Zainab, a **female student in eleventh grade** at Qayamudin Khadem High School, reflected on the lessons of the performance, saying “Everyone has the right to an education, and women and men have **equal rights to choose their own path in life**. In a traditional society with a widespread illiteracy, these live performances help people to realize their rights and spread this awareness among their families and communities.”

GENDER JUSTICE

RLS-Formal advances the rights of Afghan women and girls by building their capacity to meaningfully participate in the justice sector. By seeking to promote women's rights and gender equality, the project aims to enhance women's access to formal justice mechanisms, improve the availability of legal education for women, and foster a society willing and capable of enforcing existing law and Constitutional rights of women.

RLS-FORMAL GENDER INTEGRATION & AWARENESS

- From October 7th to 9th and from October 29th to 30th, RLS-Formal implemented four separate gender justice trainings (two for female students and two for mullahs) in Takhar and Kandahar provinces. In Takhar, the gender trainings were delivered to 36 female students and 28 mullahs and in Kandahar, to 30 mullahs and 12 female students. The participants received instruction on the Law on the Elimination of Violence Against Women, women's right to own property, marriage and divorce law, and instruction that it is not a crime for females to "run away from home" in Afghanistan. RLS-Formal works to promote women's rights and gender equality as a means to enhance women's access to formal justice mechanisms and to foster a society more willing and capable of enforcing the Constitutional rights of women.



Women judges and a dean from Al Biruni University provide information to female students at a forum in September.

- On October 9th, the Kabul bureau of the BBC reported on the challenges and opportunities facing women judges in Afghanistan. The feature focused on a day in the life of Judge Shakila Abawi, the head of the Cultural Committee of the Afghan Women Judges Association (AWJA) and Judge Anisa Rasooli, the Director of the AWJA. RLS-Formal works closely with the AWJA to increase the knowledge of female judges and to assist them in advancing their careers as well

as to inspire young women to consider careers in the judiciary. The BBC video, in Dari, can be viewed at:

http://www.bbc.co.uk/persian/afghanistan/2013/10/131004_193_af_judge.shtml



BBC Persia featured women judges in Afghanistan in a news program in October.

- On September 30th, October 2nd, 9th and October 28th, RLS-Formal sponsored forums encouraging female students from the Law and *Sharia* faculties to consider a career in the judiciary. The forums were held at Takahr, Al Biruni, Kabul, and Kandahar universities. The forums introduced over approximately 150 female students to the benefits of serving in the justice sector and provided useful information about the requirements for becoming a judge, the course of study at the Judicial Stage (Afghanistan's induction training program for judges) and how to apply to the Stage program. RLS-Formal aims to advance the rights of Afghan women and girls by building their capacity to meaningfully participate in the justice sector.



Judge Anisa Rasouli, the Director of the AWJA, speaks to female students at a forum at Kabul University.

MONITORING & EVALUATION

RLS-Formal measures its program performance through 14 performance indicators as defined in its Performance Management Plan (PMP). The project tracks the indicators monthly and reports most indicators quarterly and several semi-annually.

Performance Indicator Data							
Indicator	First Quarter FY 2014					Life of Project	
	Monthly Progress			Quarterly Achievement	Quarterly Target	Achievement To Date	Cumulative Target
	Oct	Nov	Dec				
1. Percentage of court users who agree that a court performed effectively	-	-	-	-	-	47.8%	-
2. Percentage of the population reached by campaigns supported by US G to foster public awareness and respect for rule of law	10.85%	-	-	10.85%	+5%	25.00%	19.50%
3. Percentage of the population who agree that state courts are fair and trusted	-	-	-	-	71%	68%	71%
4. Percentage of judges that complete the basic or "stage" training	-	-	-	-	-	81%	82%
5. Number of stage trainers employing modern teaching techniques	4	-	-	4	5	14	15
6. Percentage of judges that received training on women's legal rights	1.21%	-	-	1.21%	+2%	35.50%	28.00%
7. Number of judges and judicial personnel trained with US G assistance	134	-	-	134	244	2826	3227
8. Number of courts benefitting from improved court management and/or administrative systems or reforms	579	-	-	579	200	579	551
9. Percentage of students participating in practical legal course work that express increased confidence in their ability to enter the justice sector	-	-	-	-	-	93%	100%
10. Number of students involved in practical legal exercises, including legal clinic work, moot court competitions or internships	295	-	-	295	560	4840	3685
11. Number of new legal courses or curricula developed with US G assistance	0	0	0	0	3	29	30
12. Level of awareness of legal rights expressed by targeted beneficiaries	-	-	-	-	Very Aware	Very Aware	Very Aware
13. Number of print publications, radio and television programs, and other outreach materials produced and disseminated through legal outreach campaigns	32,000 Print and 1 TV & Radio	0	0	32,000 Print and 1 TV & Radio	180,000 Print, 1 TV & Radio	4,771,288 Print, 13 TV & Radio	5,000,000 Print, 16 Radio & TV
14. Proportion of females who report increased self-efficacy at the conclusion of US G-supported training/programming	86%	-	-	86%	-	76%	93%

Indicator 1: Percentage of court users who agree that a court performed effectively

RLS-Formal utilizes a court user satisfaction survey, or Q10 survey, to gauge the perceptions of Afghan citizens who interact with courts. The views of court users suggest whether judicial reforms result in the creation of efficient and transparent dispute resolution in the eyes of Afghan citizens. RLS-Formal reports the survey results in the third quarter of FY 2013 and the first quarter of FY 2014.

Indicator 2: Percentage of the population reached by campaigns supported by USG to foster public awareness and respect for rule of law

RLS-Formal works with its implementing partners to collect data on the number of people reached by its public legal outreach campaigns. Exposure to such campaigns increases the likelihood that a citizen will increase his or her awareness of their legal rights and how to access the justice system. RLS-Formal reports this data quarterly. Indicator 2 is the USAID/Afghanistan Mission Indicator 1.1b.

Indicator 3: Percentage of the population who agree that state courts are fair and trusted

RLS-Formal employs The Asia Foundation's Survey of the Afghan People, Question 79b to measure the public confidence in courts in Afghanistan. The percentage of the population who agree state courts are fair and trusted speaks to the overall public confidence in the rule of law system. The Asia Foundation publishes the survey results annually in November.

Indicator 4: Percentage of judges that complete the basic or "stage" training

RLS-Formal tracks the judges who graduate from the judicial *Stage*, the induction training to prepare a judge to serve in the judiciary. The *Stage* builds the capacity of judges by improving their legal knowledge and professional skills in areas, such as the constitution, civil and criminal code, and the *Sharia* law. RLS-Formal reports this indicator annually when the *Stage* graduates, or when the number of judges changes significantly. Indicator 4 is the USAID/Afghanistan Mission Indicator 1.11.b.

Indicator 5: Number of stage trainers employing modern teaching techniques

RLS-Formal evaluates the teaching techniques of instructors at the judicial *Stage*, including their use of visual aids, learning exercises, student-led debates and classroom discussions. Modern teaching techniques increase the likelihood judges will build the practical legal knowledge and professional skills necessary to serve in the judiciary. RLS-Formal reports the results of its evaluations quarterly.

Indicator 6: Percentage of judges that received training on women's legal rights

RLS-Formal tracks which judges receive training on gender equality and gender justice. The training programs aim to improve judges' knowledge of women's rights and enable them to secure these rights through court proceedings. RLS-Formal reports these results quarterly.

Indicator 7: Number of judges and judicial personnel trained with USG assistance

RLS-formal tabulates the number of justice sector personnel that receive training through program activities through attendance sheets. The project's training programs aim to assist judges and judicial staff to effectively carry out their duties and instill a sense of the necessity for judicial independence, transparency and accountability. RLS-Formal reports its training data quarterly. Indicator 7 is the US Foreign Assistance Framework Indicator 2.1.2-7. Indicator 7 represents the project's reported number of personnel trained to USAID. Training numbers mentioned previously in the report represent estimates that may be unsubstantiated by attendance sheets.

Indicator 8: Number of courts benefitting from improved court management and/or administrative systems or reforms

RLS-Formal tracks the courts and court divisions which benefit directly and indirectly from its initiatives to improve court administration and management. Professional management systems enhance the capacity of the Supreme Court to manage its budget, personnel and assets. RLS-Formal reports this indicator quarterly. The courts and divisions benefit directly if they receive a new system or reform, or benefit indirectly if they are helped secondarily by a reform or system. For example, the newly implemented human resource database directly benefits the Supreme

Court which operates the system and indirectly benefits all courts and divisions in Afghanistan by leading to better personnel management of judges and staff at these courthouses.

Indicator 9: Percentage of students participating in practical legal course work that express increased confidence in their ability to enter the justice sector

RLS-Formal surveys students to measure their perception of the quality of legal education at their university's Law and *Sharia* faculties. Practical legal coursework intends to training and motivating students become legal professionals who can offer meaningful access to justice to more citizens. RLS-Formal reports the survey results in the third quarter of FY 2013 and the first quarter of FY 2014.

Indicator 10: Number of students involved in practical legal exercises, including legal clinic work, moot court competitions or internships

RLS-Formal gages the number of students involved in practical legal activities, including legal clinics, moot courts, mock trials or other competitions designed to hone students' advocacy and research skills, through attendance sheets. Practical legal exercises complement the theoretical legal education commonly found in Afghanistan. RLS-Formal reports this data quarterly. Indicator 10 is the USAID/Afghanistan Mission Indicator 1.1.2b. Indicator 10 represents the project's reported number of student participants to USAID. Student numbers mentioned previously in the report represent estimates that may be unsubstantiated by attendance sheets.

Indicator 11: Number of new legal courses or curricula developed with USG assistance

RLS-Formal tracks the number of new legal courses developed as a result of its assistance to the Ministry of Higher Education. Such courses complement the newly unified core curriculum for Law and *Sharia* faculties by providing the coursework, textbooks, and reference materials for professors to teach their classes. RLS-Formal reports the new legal courses developed quarterly. Indicator 11 is the USAID/Afghanistan Mission Indicator 1.1.2e.

Indicator 12: Level of awareness of legal rights expressed by targeted beneficiaries

RLS-Formal conducts listening groups of beneficiaries to gauge the effectiveness of its public legal outreach activities. Public legal outreach activities aim to increase citizens' awareness of legal rights and process through strategic communications. RLS-Formal analyzes and reports the result of the listening groups quarterly.

Indicator 13: Number of print publications, radio and television programs, and other outreach materials produced and disseminated through legal outreach campaigns

RLS-Formal tracks the public outreach materials produced and disseminated through the Ministry of Justice and Supreme Court as the result of its assistance. Effective legal outreach campaigns require leveraging popular media channels and mechanisms to ensure rule of Law message reach the public. RLS-Formal reports these numbers quarterly.

Indicator 14: Proportion of females who report increased self-efficacy at the conclusion of USG-supported training/programming

RLS-Formal solicits feedback from participants through questionnaires to measures the efficacy of its training programs. Training programs aim to stimulate growth in women's confidence and ability to advocate for women's legal status and access justice. RLS-Formal reports this indicator quarterly. Indicator 14 is the USAID Gender strategy Indicator #3.

**USAID/Afghanistan
Office of Democracy and Governance
U.S. Embassy
Great Masood Road
Kabul, Afghanistan**